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THEODOOR DE BOOY

BY MARSHALL H. SAVILLE

IN the death of Theodoor de Booy, American archaeology has lost one of its most enthusiastic workers and field explorers.

Mr. de Booy died from the effects of influenza at his home in Yonkers, N. Y., February 18, 1919. He was the son of Vice-Admiral C. J. G. and Mary (Hobson) de Booy, and was born in Hellevoetsluis, Netherlands, December 5, 1882. He received his education at the Royal Naval Institute of Holland. In 1906 he came to the United States, becoming an American citizen in 1916. In 1909 he married Miss Elizabeth Hamilton Smith, of Louisville, Kentucky. In company with his wife, Mr. de Booy went to the Bahama Islands in 1911, and during his residence there became interested in the antiquities of the Caicos group of the Bahamas, devoting much time to the exploration of their numerous caves and mounds. On his return to the United States, Mr. de Booy published, in 1912, the first results of his archaeological researches in a paper entitled "Lucayan Remains on the Caicos Islands." He then determined to devote his life to the subject, and the opportunity soon presented itself, when he became attached to the Heye Museum, now the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation, of New York City. Mr. de Booy joined the staff as field explorer for West Indian work, and sailed for the Bahamas in June, 1912, remaining there for six months. He was notably successful on this trip, among the most important objects recovered being a remarkable paddle which he discovered in a cave on Mores island. Mr. de Booy's next expedition was to Jamaica, where he spent the months of January, February, and March of 1913, on this trip conducting excavations in some of the kitchen-middens found on various parts of the island. During July to October of the same year he devoted his attention to Santo Domingo, there undertaking the first systematic exploration ever made in this important and

little-known field, a work which was continued in the spring of 1914. On his return to the United States, Mr. de Booy prepared a report on the results of the two expeditions, which were devoted chiefly to the exploration of certain caves in Santo Domingo and to work on the small island of Saona. In October and November of the same year he made an archaeological reconnoissance of eastern Cuba, and was the first to discover the great riches of this hitherto neglected field. The year of 1915 was a busy one with Mr. de Booy. The months of February to April were spent by him in exploration and excavations on the island of Margarita, Venezuela, and from May to September he was occupied in excavating in the south-eastern part of Trinidad. In 1916 Mr. de Booy made a third trip to Santo Domingo, and in the same year he visited Porto Rico and Martinique. On all of these islands he conducted excavations.

Owing to the acquisition of the Danish West Indies by the United States, Mr. de Booy was sent by the Museum to the islands comprising this group, where he remained from October, 1916, until February, 1917. This was the first archaeological work ever done there, and he was notably successful in obtaining material and information respecting the antiquities of this region. With this expedition his fieldwork for the Museum came to an end. Early in 1918 he severed his connection with it, and commenced preparations for an exploration of the unknown region of the Perijá mountains in eastern Venezuela, and an investigation of the ethnology of the Motilone Indians, the savage remnant of a tribe which has always kept their country free from white settlement and exploration. This journey was made under the auspices of the American Geographical Society and the Museum of the University of Pennsylvania, of which latter institution he became a field worker for a short period. After his return from this trip, Mr. de Booy joined the force of the State Department Inquiry, as one of its South American experts, and was still engaged in this work at the time of his death.

One of the most active and prolific investigators in archaeological and geographical research, Mr. de Booy had reached the point where the future held promise of still greater and more valuable results. His genial and pleasing manners made for him

many friends at home and abroad, and his early passing is a distinct loss to this branch of scientific endeavor. With commendable industry he prepared reports immediately after each expedition, and at the time of his death was engaged on a comprehensive book describing the region of his latest activities. His collections and writings find a place in the front rank of West Indian exploration, and our knowledge of the ancient history of the Antilles has been greatly enhanced as the result of his entering this field. A list of his most important publications follows:

1912. Lucayan Remains on the Caicos Islands. *American Anthropologist* (N. S.), vol. XIV, no. 1, January-March, 1912, pp. 81-105, 18 figs. pl. vi.
1913. Lucayan Artifacts from the Bahamas. *American Anthropologist* (N. S.), vol. XV, no. 1, January-March, 1913, pp. 1-7, 5 figs. Reprinted as *Contributions from the Heye Museum*, No. 1.
 Certain Kitchen-middens in Jamaica. *American Anthropologist* (N. S.), vol. XV. Reprinted as *Contributions from the Heye Museum*, No. 3.
1915. Pottery from Certain Caves in Eastern Santo Domingo, West Indies. *American Anthropologist* (N. S.), vol. XVII, no. 1, January-March, 1915, pp. 69-97, figs. 12-28, pls. IV-IX. Reprinted as *Contributions from the Heye Museum*, No. 9.
 Certain West-Indian Superstitions Pertaining to Celts. *Journal of American Folk-Lore*, vol. XXVIII, no. CVII, January-March, 1915, pp. 78-82. Reprinted as *Contributions from the Heye Museum*, vol. II, no. 3.
 The Cradle of the New World. *Bulletin of the Pan American Union*, March, 1915, pp. 311-319, 5 illustrations.
1916. Certain similarities in Amulets from the Northern Antilles. *Holmes Anniversary Volume*, Washington, 1916, pp. 24-30, 3 plates.
 Notes on the Archeology of Margarita Island, Venezuela, *Contributions from the Museum of the American Indian*, Heye Foundation, vol. II, no. 5, pp. 1-28, figs 1-15, pls. I-VIII.
 Island of Margarita, Venezuela. *Bulletin of the Pan American Union*, vol. 42, 1916, pp. 531-546.
1917. The Birthplace of Josephine, Empress of France. *Bulletin of the Pan American Union*, April, 1917, pp. 493-498, 5 illustrations.
 The Virgin Islands of the United States. *Geographical Review*, New York, vol. IV, no. 5, 1917, pp. 359-373, 9 figs.
 Indian Petroglyphs in the Antilles. *Forward*, Philadelphia, vol. XXXVI, nos. 17-18, April 28, May 5, 1917, 6 illustrations.
 Archeological Investigations in the Virgin Islands. *Scientific American Supplement*, No. 2180, October 13, 1917, pp. 232-234, 9 illustrations.
 Eastern Part of the Dominican Republic. *Bulletin of the Pan American Union*, September, 1917, 7 pp. 5 illustrations.

- Archeological Notes on the Danish West Indies, etc. *Scientific American Supplement*, No. 2189, December 15, 1917, pp. 576-577, 8 illustrations.
- The Town of Baracoa and the Eastern Part of Cuba. *Bulletin of the Pan American Union*, Nov. 1917, pp. 627-639, 9 illustrations.
1918. Certain Archeological Investigations in Trinidad, British West Indies. *American Anthropologist* (N. S.), vol. 19, no. 4, October-December, 1917, pp. 471-486, figs. 61-64, pls. III-VIII, Reprinted as *Contributions from the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation*, vol. IV, no. 2.
- The Turks and Caicos Islands, British West Indies, *Geographical Review*, vol. VI, no. 1, July, 1918, pp. 37-51, 6 figs.
- The Virgin Islands; Our New Possessions. Joint author with John B. Faris. J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia, 1918. 292 pp., 97 illustrations, 5 maps.
- The People of the Mist. An Account of Explorations in Venezuela. *The Museum Journal of the University of Pennsylvania*, vol. IX, nos. 3-4, September-December, 1918, pp. 183-224, figs. 45-63.
- An Exploration of the Sierra de Perija, Venezuela. *The Geographical Review*, New York, vol. VI, no. 5, November, 1918, pp. 385-410, 15 figs.
- The Western Maracaibo Lowland of Venezuela. *Geographical Review*, New York, vol. VI, no. 6, December, 1918, pp. 481-500, figs. 1-13 pl. XVII, large folded map.
- Noises in Baracoa, Cuba. *Forward*, Philadelphia, vol. XXXVII, no. 3, Jan. 19, 1918, 3 illustrations.
- Buried Treasure in the West Indies. *Forward*, Philadelphia, vol. XXXVII, April 13, 1918, 3 illustrations.
- The Fragrant Island of St. John. *Forward*, Philadelphia, vol. XXXVII, March 2, 1918, 3 illustrations.
- Martinique, its Inhabitants, Cooks, and Sportsmen. *Forward*, Philadelphia, vol. XXXVII, Feb. 21, 1918, 3 illustrations.
- A Strange West Indian Industry. *Forward*, October 19, 1918, 1 illustration.
1919. On the Possibility of Determining the First Landfall of Columbus of Archaeological Research. *The Hispanic American Historical Review*, vol. II, no. 1, February 1919, pp. 55-61.
- Tropical Versus Arctic Exploration. *The Scientific Monthly*, May, 1919, pp. 433-436.

The following are unpublished.

Santo Domingo Kitchen-midden and Burial Mound.

Virgin Island Archeology.

Notes on the Archeology of Eastern Cuba.

The Unknown Perija Mountains of Venezuela and Their Inhabitants.

A book to be posthumously published.

NEW YORK,

March, 1919